Global Thanksgiving

Jenna Miller

EDIM 507: Globalization and Advocacy

Wilkes University

**Lesson Topic:** Global Thanksgivings

**Grade and Subject Area**: 5th Grade Social Studies

**Lesson Overview**: Students will examine harvest festivals and celebrations of thanks-giving in other cultures and make comparisons to the American celebration. Students will gain an understanding of and appreciation for the beliefs of other cultures.

**1. Introduction:** The teacher will introduce the lesson by presenting cornucopia- a common symbol of the American holiday of Thanksgiving. The teacher will lead a discussion on the importance of this symbol to early American culture. This discussion will transition to the realization that similar holidays exist in other cultures.

**2. Learner Outcomes:** Objectives will be displayed on the interactive whiteboard.

* Students will work in groups to research and present harvest and thanks-giving festivals celebrated in cultures other than their own.
* Students will present their findings in the form of a Voice Thread
* Students will comment on the Voice Threads of other groups, making comparisons to the cultures their own group studied.

**3. Stimulate Prior Recall:**

* Students will work together as a group to create a graphic organizer for the common elements of the traditional American Thanksgiving, including origins and current celebrations.
* Students will create this graphic on an Interactive Smart Board Document and use it as a guide to support their research on other cultures.

**4. Present New Information:**

* The teacher will introduce the lesson by presenting a Power Point presentation on the different elements of the Chinese Harvest Moon Festival. This festival is celebrated in Mid-Autumn, which is actually August in China. At this time, family and loved ones to gather and enjoy the full moon that is a symbol of abundance, harmony and luck. Families enjoy picnics or special dinners, and children enjoy brightly lit lanterns, puppet shows, and lantern processions.

**5. Provide Guided Learning Experience:**

* The teacher will guide students to make comparisons between American Thanksgiving and the Chinese Moon Festival using the Smart Board graphic organizer as a guide.

**6. Independent / Group Learning Experience:**

* In groups, students will search the Internet to investigate thanks-giving celebrations and harvest festivals in other cultures.
* Students will select one festival to research as a group.
* Using Kidspiration, students will organize their findings.
* Students will record a Voice Thread displaying their information, making comparisons to the American Thanksgiving celebration.

**7. Provide Feedback**

* Since this project will be completed over a series of lessons, the teacher will leave feedback on student Voice Threads by leaving text and video comments to verify that student research is on-task.
* Students will leave comments on each group’s completed Voice Thread, making comparisons to the festival or celebration that their group studied.

**8. Assess Performance**

* Kidspiration documents will be printed out and displayed in the classroom. They will be graded for completion only, as each group may decide on different important information.
* The group Voice Threads will be assessed using a fully quantifiable rubric.

**9. Transfer**

* After viewing each group’s Voice Thread, students will participate in a discussion of the common elements among harvest and thanks-giving festivals in various cultures. Students will also note differences that are unique to each culture and discuss ideas as to why these differences exist.